

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on August 21, 2006. Claims 1-2, 6 10, 16, 21, 25 and 29 are amended to further clarify the recited subject matter, no claims are canceled, and no claims are added. Thus, claims 1-32 remain pending in this application. Of these pending claims, claims 1-9 and 25-32 currently stand withdrawn in view of a provisional election with traverse, and claims 10-24 have been considered.

The amendments to the claims have been made to consistently recite “layer” rather than “surface”.

In the Specification

The specification is amended to update the priority information. No new matter has been added.

Objections to the Specification

The specification was objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Applicant respectfully traverses, and asserts the claims are fully supported by the originally filed application for the following reasons.

In claims 14 and 15, limitation “a third voltage” and “a fourth voltage” are not supported in the specification. Applicant traverses. Support for the third voltage on one of the exposed first layer and the exposed second layer, and the fourth voltage on the other of the exposed first layer and the exposed second layer is provided at least at page 2 lines 23-27, page 3 lines 1-3, page 4 line 2, and page 6 lines 10-12. There is no requirement that the exact words in the claim must match exact words in the disclosure. The third and fourth voltages reflect the voltages applied to the layers to enhance the difference in surface potential between the layers (page 6 lines 10-12).

In claims 10 and 14, limitation “retain metal ions on the exposed...” is not supported in the specification. Applicant believes the rejection was meant to read “Independent claims 10 and 16.” In claim 20, limitation “retain copper ions on the exposed...” is not supported in the specification. Applicant believes the rejection was meant to read “Independent claim 21.” Applicant traverses these rejections. Support is provided at least at page 2 lines 25-28, page 5 lines 18-19, and page 4 lines 17-18. There is no requirement that the exact words in the claim

must match exact words in the disclosure. If deposited metal ions are not removed from the second layer when metal ions are removed from the first layer, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the metal ions are retained on the second layer (e.g. page 5 lines 16-19).

Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 10, 14-15 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as lacking adequate description or enablement. Applicant respectfully traverses.

The rejection states: *Applicant introduces new matter . . .* Applicant traverses, and asserts that the claims are fully supported by the originally filed application as identified above in the section *Objections to the Specification*. There is no requirement that the exact words in the claim must match exact words in the disclosure.

Applicant respectfully requests that the §112 rejection be withdrawn.

Withdrawn Claims 1-9 and 25-32

For the reasons provided in Applicant's election with traverse of the restriction requirement, Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the withdrawn claims 1-9 and 25-32.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 10-15 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,171,952.

Claims 16-20 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claim 9 of U.S. Patent No. 5,662,788.

Claims 21-24 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 9 and 11 of U.S. Patent No. 5,662,788.

Upon notice that the objections to the specification and the §112 rejections are withdrawn, and that claims 1-32 (including the withdrawn claims) are otherwise in condition for allowance, Applicant will appropriately address the obviousness-type double patenting rejection. The Examiner is invited to call Applicant's below-named attorney to request a Terminal Disclaimer.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6960 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.


Respectfully submitted,

GURTEJ S. SANDHU ET AL.

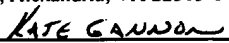
By their Representatives,

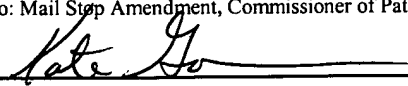
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Date 11-15-06

By 
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Reg. No. 38,377

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 15 day of November 2006.


Name


Signature